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FORREST SAWYER: No doubt you have followed the frictions between the CIA and America's colleges over the years. So you might be surprised to learn that the two institutions are getting along just famously these days. It was 20 years ago that the CIA was virtually kicked off campus. Protesters demanded an end to recruitment efforts by the agency and an end to CIA links to scholarly research. Well, it is those research links that have been restored in recent years, but not without the complaints of critics.

One of those critics, Congressman Don Edwards of California. He is Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights. He joins us in our Washington studio. And with him, Admiral Stansfield Turner, who was Director of the CIA when that campus connection was first reestablished. He now serves as a consultant to CBS News.

Gentlemen, good morning.

Admiral, if I could start with you, since it was under your watch that the connections were reestablished. How widespread are they now, and what areas do they exist in?

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: They exist largely in this area of research and consultation. And American academics are a great asset for our country. They are used for consultations by the business community, by foundations, by many branches of our government.

Their use by the CIA as a second voice, a second check on what the CIA is doing is terribly important. Particularly in the CIA, where you get so cloistered under the cloak of secrecy,

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you need somebody from the outside to check on whether you've lost a bubble, you've lost perspective. And the academic community does that for them, and quite well.

SAWYER: Are a lot of academics associated with the CIA now?

ADMIRAL TURNER: I don't think the numbers are terribly large. I don't have any up-to-date figures. They were very modest in my day because there was such a prejudice against the CIA on college campuses, which was very unfortunate. But we built that up gradually. And now I read in the newspaper that they have something like 75 conferences a year in which CIA people participate with academic people.

SAWYER: Well, Congressman Edwards, it is the CIA that handles intelligence-gathering for the United States. It's its eyes and ears out there. And you hear the Admiral say, "Well, quite frankly, we need that second opinion very badly." And these are highly skilled people.

What's wrong with that?

REP. DON EDWARDS: Well, there's nothing wrong with it. The CIA should have the benefit of the best brains in the country. But we don't want the CIA, which is a secret organization, to be doing things like they were doing at Harvard, secretly publishing a book, or paying \$106,000 for a book that was published in the United States without the American people knowing that it was a CIA-sponsored book. And I would have no objection to the book being published, except -- unless it had in the frontispiece by the author, Dr. Safran (?), that "my thanks go to the Central Intelligence agency for providing the funds for this book."

SAWYER: Now, Admiral, I know what you're going to say. You're going to say it was not a CIA-sponsored book. But the fact is, they did give this professor money. They did maintain what was a private -- that is to say, secret -- relationship. And the fact is that they do the same thing with other people who write books.

Therefore, by providing the funds and by providing the relationship, they can at least influence the direction that research goes, and the public would never know it.

ADMIRAL TURNER: Well, first of all, there are a lot of secret relationships on college campuses. Business often has a relationship with professors to invent things, and they don't want those spewed out into the public before they get their patents on them. Professors have to have their own sense of integrity and not be influenced.

The CIA funds research. The problem with publishing becomes one when the researcher wants to use that material in something that he's going to publish.

Unfortunately, the Reagan Administration changed the rules for the CIA. Previously, under Presidents Ford and Carter, it was against a presidential regulation to publish books for the purpose of influencing American opinion. That, theoretically, can be done today. I don't believe the CIA is doing it. But either the Congress or the White House ought to tighten that rule again.

Beyond that, you've got the Congressional Committees on Intelligence to check on whether the CIA is improperly funding, or funding things for improper purposes. And that's the way you and I and the academic community can best be protected.

SAWYER: Well, Congressman, you remember back in the 1960s when it was revealed the CIA had covertly funded and manipulated the National Student Association, that it had funded materials that were to be used for propaganda purposes. How do we assure that won't ever happen again?

REP. EDWARDS: Well, one has a very uneasy feeling when one finds that the CIA subsidized this book. And it would put into jeopardy all books on foreign policy. The American public would have a nagging suspicion: Is this the author's opinion or is this the CIA's opinion? Because, remember, every book that the CIA subsidizes, it retains the right to pre-clear it. Which another word is censorship. So you really don't know.

But one step further, I have no objection -- we should have no objection to the CIA using the best brains in the country. But at Harvard they not only published the book, but also allowed the professor, Professor Safran, to sponsor a conference at CIA expense on Islamic fundamentalism without telling Harvard that it was CIA-sponsored and without telling any of the participants.

SAWYER: All right, Congressman. Forgive me, sir, but we've run right into the time wall here....